

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /081 W
-----026659 051558Z /47

R 051255Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4520
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMZMBASSY ALGIERS 38
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT POUCH
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
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AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0829

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINT, XN. XF

SUBJECT: ARAB COMMUNIST PARTIES MEET IN SOFIA

REF: SOFIA 502 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNIST PARTIES OF IRAQ, JORDAN, TUNISIA, MOROCCO, SUDAN, EGYPT, SYRIA, AND ISRAEL MET SECRETLY IN SOFIA APRIL 12-14. END SUMMARY.

2. ACCORDING TO DIPLOMATIC SOURCES HERE, REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMUNIST PARTIES OF IRAQ, JORDAN, TUNISIA, MOROCCO, SUDAN, EGYPT, SYRIA, AND ISRAEL HELD SECRET MEETING IN SOFIA APRIL 12-14. PLO WAS NOT REPRESENTED. DELEGATES WERE NOT HOUSED IN NORMAL-FOR-COMMUNIST-VISITORS RILA HOTEL IN CENTER OF SOFIA BUT IN OUTLYING SUBURB OF BOYANNA, WHERE MEETINGS WERE ALSO HELD.

3. BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CENTRAL COMMITTEE DAILY RABOTNICHESKO DELO OF APRIL 28 CARRIED TASS ITEM FROM BAGHDAD DATED APRIL 27, DRAWN FROM IRAQI NEWSPAPER "TWRIK ASH SHAAB," ENTITLED "WITH THE GREAT IDEAS OF MARXISM-LENINISM," DISCUSSING THE CONFERENCE AND ITS DECLARATION BUT PROVIDING NO INFORMATION ABOUT WHERE CONFERENCE WAS HELD OR THE PARTICIPANTS. ARTICLE DESCRIBES DECLARATION AS PRAISING THE CPSU, ATTACKING THE CHINESE, FAVORING VIETNAM OVER KAMPUCHEA, CONDEMNING "THE CAPITULATORY POLICY OF THE EGYPTIAN LEADERSHIP...ENCOURAGED BY THE US,"
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AND ACCUSING PRESIDENT SADAT OF "COLLABORATION" WITH IMPERIALISTS AND ISRAELI OCCUPIERS. DECLARATION IS REPORTED TO CALL FOR "LIBERATION OF ALL OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES AND GUARANTEEING OF LAWFUL RIGHTS OF ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE, INCLUDING RIGHT TO RETURN TO THEIR NATIVE LAND AND TO FOUND AN INDEPENDENT STATE ON THE WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN RIVER AND IN THE GAZA STRIP." DECLARATION IS REPORTED AS CLOSING WITH CALL "TO INTENSIFY STRUGGLE AGAINST ALL ANTI-COMMUNIST AND ANTI-SOVIET TRENDS" AND TO FAVOR "FURTHER CONSOLIDATION OF UNITY OF WORLD COMMUNIST MOVEMENT ON BASIS OF MARXISM-LENINISM AND PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM." (EMBASSY WILL POUCH ARTICLE TO ADDRESSEES UPON REQUEST.)

4. COMMENT: HOLDING OF CONFERENCE IN SOFIA WOULD REINFORCE THEORY (REFTEL) THAT BULGARIA CONTINUES TO HAVE SPECIAL WATCHING BRIEF FROM MOSCOW FOR ARAB COMMUNIST PARTIES. SECRECY SURROUNDING CONFERENCE WAS PROBABLY PRODUCT OF BULGARIAN DESIRE NOT TO CONFOUND ITS NORMAL RELATIONS WITH HOME COUNTRIES OF PARTIES, TO MAKE ITS (AND SOVIET) PATRONAGE LESS OBVIOUS, AND, PERHAPS, NOT TO HAVE TO ADMIT THAT NO ARAB COMMUNIST PARTY WAS IN A

POSITION TO BE ABLE TO HOST SUCH A CONFERENCE ON ITS OWN
GROUND. FURTHER POSSIBLE REASON FOR SECRECY COULD HAVE
BEEN SOME TOPIC OR TOPICS ON THE AGENDA, ABOUT WHICH WE
DO NOT YET HAVE ANY INFORMATION OTHER THAN THE PRESS
REPORT OF THE DECLARATION (PARA 3).

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